

APPLICATION NO. 09/769,326

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION (Examiner: Joseph Moy, Group 3727, Mailing Date: 10/24/01)REMARKS/ARGUMENT(S):

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GROUP 3700

My invention is an improved hamper for laundry, which is partially collapsible and expandable to allow for rolling and transporting of laundry without having to lift and carry the hamper.

The use of containment structures is known in the Notice of References Cited, which is known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs, which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements. While these containment structures fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, they do not disclose a hamper or container, for that matter, that is partially collapsible, is expandable, and changes shape to allow it to be rolled with ease thus eliminating the need for lifting and carrying.

In these respects, the laundry roll hamper according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs in the Notice of References Cited, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of transporting laundry by simply rolling the hamper rather than lifting and carrying. The laundry roll hamper, I believe, is patentable over the references cited because it has an entirely new function of containment and transporting by rolling.

The following arguments show that the differences between my invention and the references cited would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which my patent application pertains.

Ref. Doc. No. 6112930

*"A land-based spill-containment tank for receiving spilled liquids, said tank being foldable for storage and being a spring-operated, pop-up device for liquid collection comprising lower and upper ring members connected by a plurality of springs as a mechanism to raise and compress the wall of flexible material."*

My invention is a hamper for receiving clothes (not liquid), is only partially collapsible for rolling (not foldable for storage), and utilizes a plurality of vertical legs with hinges (not springs) to erect and/or partially collapse (not totally collapse) the container. Their functions are totally different in magnitude, materials used, purpose, and function.

Ref. Doc. No. 6102569

*"A folding collapsible storage box, which includes a fabric box having rectangular horizontal top and bottom sides and four rectangular vertical peripheral sides, four horizontal rods and four vertical rods which support the box body in shape. The box is collapsed and flattened by twisting the rectangular horizontal top side."*

My invention is cylindrical (not box) in shape, has no horizontal rods, and utilizes a plurality of vertical legs (not just four legs) that literally "break" into three equal length pieces (not a single piece) up to a certain point to partially collapse the hamper (not twist and flatten for storage), and thus change it's shape to a polygon (not flat) for rolling. Totally different shapes, support structures, mechanism, purpose, and function.

Ref. Doc. No. 5664886

*"A net for collecting leaves with a base frame rectangular in shape; a plurality of arms pivotally mounted to and extending from the base frame towards the outer peripheral of the mesh web; a closure*